

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3505.11

§ 3504.56 If I have more than one permit or lease, may I combine bond coverage?

Yes. Instead of filing separate bonds for each permit or lease, you may file a bond to cover all permits and leases for a specific mineral in any one state, or nationwide. We will establish the amount of the bond; however, the minimums are:

(a) \$25,000 for statewide bonds. File these bonds in the BLM State Office for the state where your leases are located.

(b) \$75,000 for nationwide bonds. File these bonds in any BLM State Office.

§ 3504.60 Under what circumstances might BLM elect to change the amount of my bond?

We may increase or decrease your bond amount when we determine that a change in coverage is appropriate, but we will not decrease your bond amount below the minimum.

§ 3504.65 What happens to my bond if I do not meet my permit or lease obligations?

BLM will demand payment from your bond to cover any obligations on which you default. Your bond will be reduced accordingly. If the surety makes a payment, we will reduce the face amount of the surety bond and the surety's liability by the amount of the payment.

§ 3504.66 Must I restore my bond to the full amount if payment has been made from my bond?

Yes. After any default, BLM will notify you of the amount you must pay to restore your bond. We will give you no more than six months to post a new bond or increase the existing bond to its pre-default level. You may elect to file separate or substitute bonds for each permit or lease. If you do not replace your bond, BLM may take action to cancel the leases or permits covered by the bond.

§ 3504.70 When will BLM terminate the period of liability of my bond?

BLM may terminate the period of liability for any bond only when you have filed an acceptable replacement bond or when you have met all your permit or lease terms and conditions.

§ 3504.71 When will BLM release my bond?

(a) BLM will release your bond when we have determined, after the passage of a reasonable period of time, that you have done the following:

(1) Paid all royalties, rentals, penalties, and assessments;

(2) Satisfied all permit or lease obligations;

(3) Reclaimed the site; and

(4) Taken effective measures to ensure that the mineral prospecting or development activities will not adversely affect surface or subsurface resources.

(b) If you assign your lease or permit, BLM will release your bond after we determine that you met the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section. Also, your assignee must provide an acceptable bond or other surety.

Subpart 3505—Prospecting Permits

§ 3505.10 What is a prospecting permit?

(a) A prospecting permit gives you the exclusive right to prospect on and explore lands available for leasing under this part to determine if a valuable deposit exists of:

(1) Phosphate;

(2) Sodium;

(3) Potassium;

(4) Sulphur;

(5) Gilsonite; or

(6) A hardrock mineral.

(b) Prospecting permits are not available for asphalt.

(c) You may remove only material needed to demonstrate the existence of a valuable mineral deposit.

§ 3505.11 Do I need a prospecting permit to collect mineral specimens for non-commercial purposes?

No. You may collect mineral specimens for hobby, recreation, scientific, research or similar purposes without a prospecting permit. However, the surface management agency may require a use permit. BLM's regulations for collecting mineral specimens are at part 8365 of this title.